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SUBJECT Reorganization of the MCDN

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1. The reorganization of the Movimiento Civico Democratico Nacional (MCDN), the political party formed by President Galo Plaza of Ecuador, is reported to be moving ahead with considerable impetus, especially in Guayaquil. After his election, Plaza made no particular attempt to hold his party together and some of his cabinet and many of his appointees were non-MCDN members. By this indifference, the President alienated many friends who had been his strongest supporters during the presidential election campaign. However, in view of constant harassment by opposition parties of administration officials and of legislation which they sponsored, Plaza finally decided that it was impossible to gain administration support without a well organized political party.
2. A headquarters has been established in Quito and Guayaquil. More important is the fact that Luis Maldonado Tamayo, present Ecuadoran Ambassador to Mexico and one of the strongest directors of the Plaza movement during the last presidential campaign, is reported to have accepted Plaza's urgent request to return to Ecuador and direct the activities of the MCDN. Maldonado's recall from Mexico is particularly significant in view of the fact that Plaza is known to feel that his present Minister of Government, Eduardo Salazar, has failed to successfully lead the MCDN or to win support from any of the opposition parties, particularly the Liberals.
3. In Guayaquil, the movement is under the guidance of Federico Intriago, Rafael Guerrero Parker, Col. Agustin Alban Borja, Luis Rios, Alfredo Gomez, and [REDACTED]
4. In some cases new appointments, such as that of Col. Alban to head the Guayaquil City Traffic Police, have caused local criticism because of lack of proper qualifications.
5. Plans to back Rafael Guerrero have been consolidated during the last week and appointments to government jobs in Guayaquil are a part of the Guerrero-Plaza alliance to have the city of Guayaquil vote solidly for Guerrero as the MCDN candidate for mayor.

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